



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Malakoff Diggins SHP Celebrates 50 years *Humbug Living History Day*

NORTH BLOOMFIELD, Calif. – Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park, site of the California's largest hydraulic mine, celebrates its 50th anniversary as a state park on Saturday, June 11. The anniversary will be celebrated during Humbug Days, an annual living history day commemorating the park's historic gold rush past.

The event is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature docents and staff in period costume and a parade. Activities for the day include:

- Nisenan blessing to open the day
- Parade
- Tours of the historic buildings including the general store, King's Saloon, drug store, blacksmith's shop, stable and residences, demonstration of the use of a water cannon (monitor)
- Wild West gun fight re-enactment
- Blacksmith and weaving demonstrations
- Gold panning
- Tin punching
- Candle making

Malakoff Diggins was once home to the Hill Nisenan people who were forced out when gold was found in Humbug Creek in 1852. A French engineer struck on the highly effective idea of pressure washing away the hillsides to get to the gold embedded in the rock and soil eventually washing up to 100,000 yards of gravel a day. But the practice had environmental



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downsides as discarded silt and rocks were dumped into downhill streams causing flooding for cities and farms in the Sacramento Valley and impaired navigation on San Francisco Bay. A court decision banned hydraulic mining in 1883.

The state historic park was founded in 1965 to preserve the history of North Bloomfield and hydraulic mining. Park visitors can see the way miners lived near the remnants of the main Malakoff mine and five other claim sites that were blasted with water to get at the gold thought to lie embedded beneath.

Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park is located 26 miles north of Nevada City off Highway 49. From Nevada City, travel 11-miles north on highway-49 toward Downieville. Turn right onto Tyler Foote Road, stay on the pavement and follow the yellow line to the park. The road changes names a few times (Curzon Grade Road, Back Bone Road, Derbec Road, North Bloomfield Road). These are not high-speed roads.

For more information, please feel free to call (530) 265.2740 or visit the [official park website](#), or the [Friends sponsored park website](#)

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